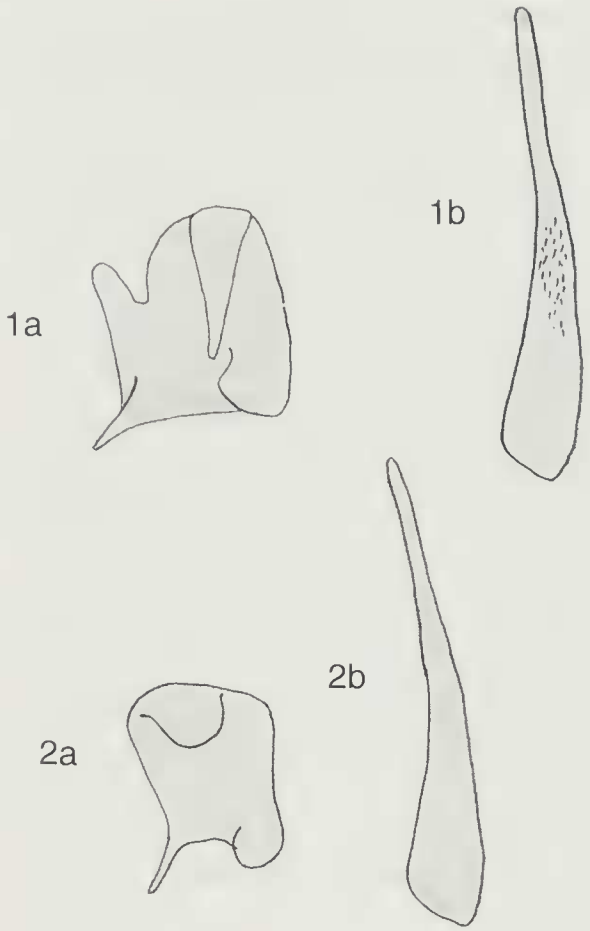

Simplified illustrations of left valvae (a) and aedeagi (b) of *Tinagma* species. 1. *Tinagma balteolella* (F. v. R.) Beckton, South Essex, 17.v.2004; 2. *T. ocnersotomella* (Stt.) – after Falkovich & Medvedev (1990).

For those who may wish to try to find this moth in new localities, it may be of interest that Paul Sokoloff (*op. cit.*) collected dead stems of the foodplant in autumn and left them hanging outside all winter, exposed to the elements, before bringing them indoors in late April (during 1988); his moths emerged from 9 May onwards.— COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP (E-mail: cpauk1@ntlworld.com).

Spondylis buprestoides (Linnaeus, 1758) (Col.: Cerambycidae) found near a timber merchant in the Orpington area (Kent)

On the evening of the 22 vii 2004, I observed two black beetles at the base of a poplar tree at the edge of a common bordering the river Cray (O.S. grid reference TQ 467672). From a distance they appeared to be lesser stag beetles *Dorcus parallelipipedus* (L.) which are relatively common in the area. However, after capture, it became clear that the beetles had filiform antenna and were not stag beetles but a species of longhorn. Another specimen was found on a pine in a small church yard next to the common (TQ 468671). A further two examples were found at the first location the following evening.

The species is not native of the British Isles but was easily identified as *Spondylis buprestoides* using a French field guide (Auger, *Atlas des Coléoptères de France*, volume II, 4th edition, 1976, Boubée). Those beetles are shiny black, of cylindrical

shape with large mandibles. The elytra possess carinae, which are less marked in the female. The five specimens collected measured between 17 and 22 mm, the two females being slightly larger than the three males.

Spondylis buprestoides is the only species of its genus in Europe. According to du Chatenet (2000, *Coléoptères Phytophages d'Europe*, Volume I, N.A.P. Editions) it is relatively common and widely distributed throughout continental Europe but is absent from the north of the Scandinavian peninsula, the south of Spain and north of Italy. It is also absent from the extreme north of France and part of Belgium.

The species develops in pine or other coniferous trees and it is likely that those specimens have been introduced with some timber. According to Hickin (1987, *Longhorn Beetles of the British Isles*, Shire Natural History) it has been known for some longhorn species, for example *Ergates Faber* L., to have a full life cycle in British timber yard. A timber merchant is very close to the collection locations (TQ 467670) and two building yards are also selling timber in the vicinity (TQ 468675 and TQ 468674). Pieces of sawn but not processed pine, some still with bark, used for packaging were found in a skip at the timber merchant. The beetles could have been imported in such unprocessed timber. Although, the British climate would not be an issue, it seems unlikely that the species will settle durably as there are very few conifers in the area (one pine, three dead and one live spruces in the church yard and a few conifers in the near by Orpington Priory Park – TQ 467668).— MARC E. MIQUEL, 7 Albert Road, St Mary Cray, Kent BR5 4AF (E-mail: marc.miquel@kcl.ac.uk).

Larvae of Four-spotted Moth *Tyta luctuosa* (D. & S.)(Lep.: Noctuidae) found in Lincolnshire

The Four-spotted Moth *Tyta luctuosa* is generally associated with sun-trap situations, light, well-drained soils which warm up rapidly, and the larvae feed only on Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*. On 26 June 2003 Robin Field, Graham Watkins and I found seven larvae of the Four-spotted Moth *Tyta luctuosa* during a nocturnal search from 23.00 – 01.30 hours on a south-facing slope of limestone grassland in a valley in Lincolnshire.

This site is known to have supported a population of this moth since the 1980s (Tony Smith, pers. comm.) and on 8 June 2002, James McGill and I counted a minimum of 62 adults on this slope. This is the highest total on any British site since 2000 (Waring, 2002. Wildlife reports - Moths. *British Wildlife* **14**: 58). Six of the seven larvae found on 26 June 2003 were in the final instar. Most were in a small part of the site in a south-facing position, at the foot of a small quarry, amongst a grassy sward dominated by Tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and other grasses, with trailing Field Bindweed and some small patches of bare ground. The sward height was a fairly uniform at 7 centimetres, measured by the Boorman drop-disc method (see Waring, 1992. *British Butterfly Conservation Society News 50*: 51-53). The site has received apparently favourable grazing management by cattle during the decade I have known it. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is covered by a management agreement with English Nature.